is adversely effecting the students applying for college admissions across the country and unemployed youths seeking jobs in response to advertisements within a specified time;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the rush of sending answers to Doordarshan programmes on Post Cards only has resulted in the shortage of Post Cards in the country particularly in villages;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS) (SHRI SUKH RAM: (a) No, Sir. While, no doubt, the factors mentioned have contributed to pressure of work in mail offices/post offices, it is not true that delivery of mail and payment of money orders are delayed on that account.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) There is no clear evidence to that effect. However, wherever shortages of postcards have come to notice on occassions adequate replenishments are made.

Provision of Electronic Money Order System in Bihar

392. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar has the highest number of money order recipients from people working elsewhere in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide electronic money transfer system throughout Bihar on priority basis in order to give better money order services in the State; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS) (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir. According to 1992-93 figures, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu receive more Money Orders from outside than Bihar.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under the Pilot Project it is proposed to instal Micro Earth Station (VSATs) at five locations in the country for transmission of money orders via communications satellite. Patna is one of the five stations. The project is expected to be commissioned in January '94'. In the subsequent phase, micro-earth stations would be located at 6 more locations in Bihar; these are: Ranchi, Gaya, Purnea, Darbhanga, Madhepur and Muzzafarpur. This project is intended to expedite transmission of money orders on a network basis.

Telephone exchanges in Bihar

393. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many telephone exchanges are catering to the telephone services in the State of Bihar with district wise details of such exchanges;

(b) what is the capacity of each of these telephone exchanges and how many of them have been converted into Electronic Exchanges during the last five years;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the capacity of these telephone exchanges and convert all the exchanges into Electronic ones in the near future; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?